



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/808,776	03/24/2004	Sung-Woong Ahn	2060-3104	6073

7590 01/03/2006

JONATHAN Y. KANG, ESQ.  
LEE, HONG, DEGERMAN, KANG & SCHMADEKA  
14th Floor  
801 S. Figueroa Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90017-5554

EXAMINER

HUYNH, NAM TRUNG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2643

DATE MAILED: 01/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>		<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/808,776		AHN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>		<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Nam Huynh		2643	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/15/04</u> .  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chiang (US 4,239,269).

A. Regarding claim 1, Chiang discloses a luggage lock comprising:

- A hook or latching member (figure 4, item 8).
- A spring-loaded button member or locking member (figure 4, items 30,35).
- A hook hole or spacing (figure 4, item 33).
- Means for disengaging the latching member (figure 2, item 30).

Furthermore, Chiang discloses that when the hook or latching member is inserted in to the button or locking member, the latching member moves against the spring bias (column 2, lines 53-68).

B. Regarding claim 2, Chiang discloses an inner recess or groove for holding a spring (column 2, lines 59-62).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

Art Unit: 2643

the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3-6, 8-10, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chiang (US 4,239,269) in view of Jeon et al. (US 6,549,791).

A. Regarding claim 3, Chiang discloses a luggage lock comprising:

- A hook or latching member (figure 4, item 8).
- A spring-loaded button member or locking member (figure 4, items 30,35).
- A hook hole or spacing (figure 4, item 33).
- Means for disengaging the latching member (figure 2, item 30).

Furthermore, Chiang discloses that when the hook or latching member is inserted in to the button or locking member, the latching member moves against the spring bias (column 2, lines 53-68). However, Chiang does not explicitly disclose a rack and pinion mechanism to move the locking mechanism. Jeon et al. discloses a watch type portable radiotelephone in which a locking mechanism comprises:

- A guide surface or groove (figure 19, item 262).
- A spring (figure 19, item 570).
- A rack and pinion mechanism to move the locking member (figures 26, 27).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the rack and pinion mechanism of Jeon et al. in the locking mechanism of Chiang to prevent accidental or unwanted release by allow the latching member to be disengaged via turning a button rather than pushing a button.

- B. Regarding claims 4-6, Jeon et al. discloses that the locking mechanism is for a battery pack holder (figure 19, item 20) or battery cover for a mobile telephone.
- C. Regarding claim 8, Chiang discloses legs to form a hook hole or spacing (figure 4, item 33).
- D. Regarding claims 9 and 10, Chiang discloses a rear edge (figure 4, item 32) or locking leg that has a surface that corresponds to the hook (figure 4, item 8) or latching member.
- E. Regarding claim 19, Chiang discloses a button to which an external force is applied to move the locking member against a spring (figures 4, 5).
5. Claim 7, 9, 11, 13-14, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chiang (US 4,239,269) in view of Hukill et al. (US 6,660,427).
- A. Regarding claim 7, Chiang discloses a luggage lock comprising:
- A hook or latching member (figure 4, item 8).
  - A spring-loaded button member or locking member (figure 4, items 30,35).
  - A hook hole or spacing (figure 4, item 33).
  - Means for disengaging the latching member (figure 2, item 30).
  - An inner recess or groove for holding a spring (column 2, lines 59-62).

Furthermore, Chiang discloses that when the hook or latching member is inserted in to the button or locking member, the latching member moves against the spring bias (column 2, lines 53-68). Chiang does not explicitly disclose that the locking member comprises two legs that form spacing. Hukill et al. discloses a latch assembly for a portable electronic device that comprises a surface (figure 12, item 121) and a surface

Art Unit: 2643

across from this surface that is shorter and on the left shown in figures 11 and 12 that create a forked cavity (figure 12, item 80) or space. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allow the locking member of Chiang to have two legs, as taught by Hukill et al., in order to better secure the latching member and provide a more reliable attachment and detachment means.

B. Regarding claim 9, in figure 12, Hukill et al. shows a surface (the shorter leg of the button on the left) that is adapted to engage a latching surface (figure 12, item 202) of the latching member.

C. Regarding claims 11 and 14, Hukill et al. shows an end tip surface (figure 12, item 121) that is rounded and is adapted to engage to surface (figure 12, item 204) of the latching member. Furthermore these two surfaces slide against each other upon insertion (column 6, lines 1-9).

D. Regarding claim 13, Hukill et al. shows in figures 11 and 12 smooth entrance of the latching member (figure 12, item 200) into the spacing.

E. Regarding claim 17, Hukill et al. shows in figures 11 and 12 that the second surface (item 121) pushes the latching member out of the cavity or space by sliding down surface 204 until the rounded edges of both surfaces initiate the separation of the locking and latching member.

6. Claims 8, 10, 12, 15-16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chiang (US 4,239,269) in view of Jeon et al. (US 6,549,791) as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Hukill et al. (US 6,660,427).

A. Regarding claim 8, the combination of Chiang and Jeon et al. disclose the limitations set forth in claim 3, but does not explicitly disclose that the locking member comprises two legs that form spacing. Hukill et al. discloses a latch assembly for a portable electronic device that comprises a surface (figure 12, item 121) and a surface across from this surface that is shorter and on the left shown in figures 11 and 12 that create a forked cavity (figure 12, item 80) or space. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allow the locking member of Chiang to have two legs, as taught by Hukill et al., in order to better secure the latching member and provide a more reliable attachment and detachment means.

B. Regarding claim 10, in figure 12, Hukill et al. shows a surface (the shorter leg of the button on the left) that is adapted to engage a latching surface (figure 12, item 202) of the latching member.

C. Regarding claims 12 and 16, Hukill et al. shows an end tip surface (figure 12, item 121) that is rounded and is adapted to engage to surface (figure 12, item 204) of the latching member. Furthermore these two surfaces slide against each other upon insertion (column 6, lines 1-9).

D. Regarding claim 15, Hukill et al. shows in figures 11 and 12 smooth entrance of the latching member (figure 12, item 200) into the spacing.

E. Regarding claim 18, Hukill et al. shows in figures 11 and 12 that the second surface (item 121) pushes the latching member out of the cavity or space by sliding

Art Unit: 2643

down surface 204 until the rounded edges of both surfaces initiate the separation of the locking and latching member.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nam Huynh whose telephone number is 571-272-5970. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 a.m.-5 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on 571-272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

NTH  
12/20/05

  
**WING CHAN**  
**SENIOR PRIMARY EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**